

United States Department of Agriculture Agricultural Marketing Service 1400 Independence Ave., SW Stop 0225 Room 2968 – South Building Washington, DC 20250-0225

July 7, 2003

## Notice to Interested Parties

The Department of Agriculture has announced proposed amendments to the National Dairy Promotion and Research Order (Order). The proposed amendments modify the composition of the 36-member National Dairy Promotion and Research Board based on 2002 milk production.

The Order, which is authorized by the Dairy Production Stabilization Act of 1983, requires that the number of members from any geographic region of the country be based upon the geographic distribution of milk production, and that the review of milk production occurs not less than every five years and not more than every three years. The last review was conducted in 1998.

The proposed amendments would:

- Increase the number of members in Region 1 (Oregon and Washington) from 1 to 2.
- Increase the number of members in Region 2 (California) from 6 to 7.
- Decrease the number of members in Region 5 (Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota) from 3 to 2.
- Decrease the number of members in Region 10 (Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia) from 2 to 1.

Enclosed is a copy of the news release and the proposed rule. If you have any questions, you may contact the Promotion and Research Branch at (202) 720-6909.

Sincerely,

Richard M. McKee /s/ Deputy Administrator Dairy Programs

**Enclosures**